

diameter which is greater than the diameter of the perforated tubular core 16 so that it may be mounted on the tubular core 16.  
*Col. 4, line 64 - col. 5, line 2.*

Thus, the seal 34 is pressed between the second end cap 10 and the sealing end cap 28, i.e., axially sealing, but not radially sealing. Because the seal 34 is larger in diameter than the core 16, the seal 34 cannot act as a radial seal in relation to the core 16. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Kott et al.

Claims 2-8 are allowable over Kott et al., at least because of their dependence from claim 1.

With further regard to claim 5, Kott et al. does not teach or suggest the feature of the hollow cylindrical end disk having a hollow cylindrical, concentric and axially extending collar. The Office Action asserts that element 44 of Kott et al. corresponds to the claimed collar. Applicants respectfully disagree. Kott et al. teaches that a nipple 44 can be attached to the sealing end cap 18. *See col. 6, lines 4-8.* The sealing end cap 18, however, is not an end disk arranged on the axial end face of the filter medium, as claimed in claim 1 of the present application, from which claim 5 depends. Rather, the sealing end cap 18 is sealed against the second end cap 10, which is arranged on the axial end face of the filter medium. In other words, it is the sealing end cap 18, not the second end cap 10, in which the nipple 44 formed. Kott et al. does not disclose that the second end cap 10 has a hollow cylindrical, concentric and axially extending collar. Therefore, claim 5 is not anticipated by Kott et al. for this additional reason.

Moreover, the teachings of Kott et al. are not directed air filters. Instead, Kott et al. discloses "a filter cartridge assembly 1 for use in filtering a liquid or, more specifically, for use in aquatic environments, such as pools, whirlpool-type tubs, and the like." *Col. 4, lines 5-7.* The teachings of Kott et al. are limited to liquid/aquatic type filters. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the teachings of Kott et al. to provide an air filter in accordance with the present invention.

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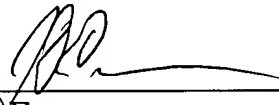
In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt, favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned at (202) 624-2845 would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #037141.53292US).

Respectfully submitted,

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